AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

formulating a discovery information query at a console or at one or more network devices, the console includes a managing device for the one or more network device, wherein the discovery information query is initiated automatically or by a user;

sending the discovery information query to a search engine to facilitate searching of discovery information relevant to the one or more network devices, wherein the search engine includes a query formulation device to input one or more of the following parameters: type of network devices, status of network devices, and capabilities of network devices;

receiving the discovery information query;

retrieving one or more files from the one or more network devices, each file containing discovery information of a network device on which the file is stored; and

searching the discovery information in the one or more files based on the discovery information query.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the searching of the discovery information comprises retrieving via the search engine the discovery information in the one or more files based on the discovery information query, wherein the search engine includes an extensible markup language (XML)-based search engine, and the one or more files include one or more XML-based files.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising manipulating the retrieved discovery information.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising displaying the manipulated discovery information.

5. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

formulate a discovery information query at a console or at one or more network devices, the console includes a managing device for the one or more network devices, wherein the discovery information query is initiated automatically or by a user;

send the discovery information query to a search engine to facilitate searching of discovery information relevant to the one or more network devices, wherein the search engine includes a query formulation device to input one or more of the following parameters: type of network devices, status of network devices, and capabilities of network devices;

receive the discovery information query;

retrieve one or more files from the one or more network devices, each file containing discovery information of a network device on which the file is stored; and

search the discovery information in the one or more files based on the discovery information query.

6. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the searching of the discovery information comprises retrieving via the search engine the discovery information in the one or more files based on the discovery

information query, wherein the search engine includes an XML-based search engine, and the one or more files include one or more XML-based files.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 6, wherein the sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further causes the machine to manipulate the retrieved discovery information.

9. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to display the manipulated discovery information.

Claims 10-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

one or more network devices, each network device having stored thereon a file containing discovery information; and

a search engine to search the discovery information of one or more files stored on the one or more network devices based on a discovery information query, wherein the search engine includes a query formulation device to input one or more of the following parameters: type of network devices, status of network devices, and capabilities of network devices, wherein the discovery information query is formulated at a console or at the one or more network devices, the console includes a managing device for the one or more network devices, wherein the discover information query is initiated automatically or by a user, and the discovery information query is sent to the search engine to facilitate the searching of the discovery information relevant to the one or more network devices.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the search engine comprises an XML-based search engine, and the one or more files comprise one or more XML-based files.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the one or more network devices comprise one or more of the following: a router, a switch, a server, a printer, and a computer.

Claims 18-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein one of the one or more network devices manages other network devices.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the discovery information comprises one or more of the following: data describing capabilities of the one or more network devices, data describing locations of the one or more network devices, and data describing types of the one or more network devices.

Claims 24-25 (Cancelled)